



ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

PET SHOP NEWS

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www.michigan.gov/mda

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CANINE INFLUENZA

Since its discovery three years ago, many people have become concerned about Canine Influenza. Discovered in January 2004, the disease is very similar to the virus that causes the flu in people. It appears to affect only dogs. The virus tends to be spread through the air by dogs in close contact with each other, but it can also be spread by contact with infected surfaces. Because this is a new disease, most dogs will not have immunity to it. Therefore, most dogs that are exposed to this disease will become ill. Once ill, a dog can spread the disease to other dogs for up to 10 days.

Signs of Canine Influenza are very similar to Kennel Cough. Dogs develop nasal discharge, a fever, and a cough which can last up to 3 or 4 weeks. In severe cases, the fever can be quite high and the dogs may have difficulty breathing. Some dogs may be infected but show no signs. Like the flu in people, most dogs will recover once the disease has run its course. Although the exact percentage is unknown, less than 10% of dogs with Canine Influenza actually die.

Unfortunately, there is no vaccine for this disease at the present time. However, there are certain things you can do to reduce the risk of Canine Influenza. Be sure to thoroughly disinfect (e.g. a 1:30 bleach solution) all cages, bowls, and other surfaces regularly. Be sure to wash your hands before and after handling animals and cleaning cages. If an animal is displaying signs of respiratory disease, isolate it and contact a veterinarian.

So far, Canine Influenza does not appear to be a problem in Michigan. If you suspect an outbreak of Canine Influenza, please contact Dr. Roger Maes at the MSU Virology Laboratory at 517-432-5811 for testing. Any dog with respiratory signs and a fever should be suspected. The best time to test a dog is early in the disease, when the fever first appears.

If you would be interested in participating in a surveillance project for Canine Influenza, please contact Dr. Maes at the above phone number. Samples for testing are collected with nasal swabs, and could most easily be collected on anesthetized dogs or dogs recently euthanized. Dr. Maes is also interested in surveillance using serology (blood samples).

For more information on Canine Influenza, log onto:
http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/#canine

RABIES PREVENTION

Michigan continues to remain free of the raccoon strain of rabies. This is the strain of rabies predominantly found along the east coast of the United States. However, we are continuing to find the skunk and bat strains of the rabies virus in Michigan. In 2006, there were forty-nine reported cases of rabid animals in Michigan. These include: thirty-nine bats, three skunks, one cat, one fox, one cow, and four horses. To date, in 2007, there has been one case of rabies in a horse. Most of these cases were from the southeastern region of Michigan. As rabies is typically seen in wildlife species, the state is particularly concerned in the number of domestic cases diagnosed with rabies over the last year. Please be sure to vaccinate all animals against rabies for which a vaccine is available, including cats and horses.

Here are some tips for preventing rabies:

- Have all dogs, cats, and ferrets vaccinated against rabies. Be sure to booster the pets in a timely manner.
- Consider vaccinating livestock, especially in a rabies endemic area. A licensed vaccine is available for horses, cows, sheep, and goats. Speak with your veterinarian concerning vaccinating these animals. MDA recommends that all horses be vaccinated.
- Avoid wild or stray animals.
- Prevent wildlife from entering your home by capping all chimneys; blocking off or eliminating areas on your property where animals may reside (including under porches or steps); covering or repairing holes in roofs, eaves, and walls; and providing bright exterior lighting to keep nocturnal animals away.

If you find a bat in your home or are attacked by a wild animal, you should contact your local animal control to arrange for rabies testing. The bat may be caught by placing a large can or box over the bat (wear leather gloves), sliding cardboard with small punch holes under the box or can, taping the cardboard to the box or can, and then righting the box or can. If you are ever bitten by an animal, be sure to wash the wound well with soap and water, and report the bite to your local health department. For more information, refer to the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control at www.nasphv.org.

REMINDERS

- ❖ A Pet Shop Health Certificate **must** accompany any dog, cat, or ferret sold or adopted out at a pet shop. Only a licensed, accredited veterinarian may order and obtain this certificate. In addition, only a licensed, accredited veterinarian may examine and certify the animal to be free from communicable disease. As the Pet Shop Health Certificate expires every thirty days, an animal for sale or for adoption must be re-examined and the certificate updated no later than thirty days from the last exam date. Please note that **all** known treatments (vaccinations, medications, etc) must be recorded on the certificate including the date the treatment was given, the type of treatment given, and who administered the treatment. This includes all treatments given by the breeder, rescue, store, and veterinarian. Also, please note that the health certificate must be completely filled out including the description of the animal (*including the actual birthdate of the animal*); the veterinarian's contact information including name, address, and phone number; the store's or rescue's contact information including name, address, and phone number; the date of purchase; and the purchaser's contact information.
- ❖ A resting perch **must** be in a cage whenever more than one cat is present in an enclosure. This provides an additional level in the cage, allowing cats an escape route should the cats fight.
- ❖ A ferret cannot be sold without giving the owner a Ferret Health Advisory Sheet. This sheet can be found at the following web address: **www.michigan.gov/documents/MDA_FerretHealthAdvisorySheet_31881_7.pdf**
- ❖ A Pet Shop License is not transferable. Therefore, if a pet shop moves or changes owners, the pet shop must re-apply as a new facility, including submitting a new application, paying the new fee of \$200, and passing an inspection of the facility. If you are planning a change of ownership or relocating the store, contact Cindy Slocum at 517-335-7188.

If you have any questions regarding Pet Shop Health Certificates or Licenses, the Ferret Health Advisory Sheet, or resting perches, please contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture at 517-373-1077.

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